



United States Mission to the OSCE

Response to the OSCE Head of Office in Baku Maurizio Pavesi

As delivery by Deputy Political Counselor Katherine Brucker
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
December 16, 2004

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to Ambassador Pavesi and to commend his hard work in Azerbaijan over the past five months.

We encourage continued cooperation between the OSCE Office in Baku and the Government of Azerbaijan in initiating legislative reform consistent with OSCE principles.

We support the Office's cooperation with the International Foundation for Election Systems and applaud its efforts in coordinating election observation efforts among the international community.

We encourage the Office in Baku to continue to monitor the upcoming appeal to the Supreme Court of Azerbaijan by seven opposition leaders who were convicted for alleged roles in last year's post-election violence. We join the Office in reiterating our deep concern regarding the severity of the sentences awarded and fully support continued observation by the Baku Office of this final appeal process.

Mr. Chairman, the U.S. continues to support the Office's overall contribution to the implementation of anti-corruption legislation. We believe the anti-corruption roundtables, sponsored in part by the Baku Office, which bring together government and civil society representatives, truly exemplify the spirit of the OSCE community and reflects the high standard of OSCE principles upon which this Office's mandate is founded.

I would like to thank Ambassador Pavesi for his report, and to wish him continued success in Baku.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.